

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information mediating apparatus for providing mediation services for the user, comprising:

5 a mediating condition storing unit in which mediating condition list data describing specific mediating conditions necessary for mediation has been stored; and

10 a mediation service processing unit which reads out the mediating condition list data designated in correspondence to a user request from said mediating condition storing unit, obtains specific conditions in said read-out mediating condition list data from another information storing unit, merges said specific conditions, searches information which satisfies said
15 merged conditions, and presents said information to the user.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said mediation service processing unit comprises:

20 a user interface processing unit which forms display information such as mediation menu, mediation result, and the like and presents said display information to the user; and

25 a logic processing unit which reads out said mediating condition list data, notifies a service providing server group of said read-out data, and forms mediation result information by matching with service

information.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said mediation service processing unit designates and reads
5 out specific mediating condition list data by analyzing an uncertain, rough, and abstract request from the user.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when an
10 uncertain, rough, and abstract request is received from the user, said mediation service processing unit presents a selection menu in which request contents are divided into items to the user and designates and reads out the specific mediating condition list data in
15 correspondence to selected menu items.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in the case where referring conditions of personal information exist in the read-out mediating condition list data,
20 said mediation service processing unit extracts corresponding personal information and merges it with reference to a personal information storing unit.

6. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in the
25 case where referring conditions of personal information exist in the read-out mediating condition list data, said mediation service processing unit extracts

corresponding personal information and merges it with
reference to a personal information storing unit, and
in the case where the corresponding personal
information does not exist, said mediation service
5 processing unit requests the user to input the personal
information.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in the
case where inquiring conditions to the user exist in
10 the read-out mediating condition list data, said
mediation service processing unit requests the user to
input personal information.

8. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in the
15 case where inquiring conditions to the user exist in
the read-out mediating condition list data, said
mediation service processing unit merges corresponding
personal information as default values by referring to
a personal information storing unit and, thereafter,
20 requests the user to input the personal information
while presenting said default values.

9. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in the
case where calculating conditions exist in the read-out
25 mediating condition list data, said mediation service
processing unit executes a predetermined calculating
expression on the basis of other mediating conditions

and merges a result of said calculation.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said mediation service processing unit executes a
5 predetermined calculating expression on the basis of conditions merged by referring to a personal information storing unit or by inquiring of the user and merges a result of said calculation into said calculating conditions.

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11. An apparatus according to any one of claims 5 to 9, wherein in the case where the mediating condition list data read out from said mediating condition storing unit has a layer structure, said mediation
15 service processing unit obtains necessary conditions by sequentially referring to the personal information storing unit from a predetermined layer, by inquiring of the user, and/or by performing a calculating process and merges them.

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12. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said mediation service processing unit forms new mediating condition list data on the basis of a mediation result presented to the user and decided and stores it into
25 said mediating condition storing unit.

13. An information mediating method of providing

mediation services for the user, comprising the steps of:

storing mediating condition list data describing specific mediating conditions necessary for mediation
5 into a mediating condition storing unit;

reading out the mediating condition list data designated in correspondence to a user request from said mediating condition storing unit;

obtaining specific conditions in said read-out
10 mediating condition list data by referring to another information storing unit, by inquiring of the user, and/or by performing a calculating process based on predetermined conditions and merging said specific conditions; and

15 searching information which satisfies said merged conditions and presenting said information to the user.

14. A computer-readable storage medium in which an information mediating program for providing mediation
20 services for the user has been stored, wherein said information mediating program comprises the steps of:

storing mediating condition list data describing specific mediating conditions necessary for mediation into a mediating condition storing unit;

25 reading out the mediating condition list data designated in correspondence to a user request from said mediating condition storing unit;

obtaining specific conditions in said read-out
mediating condition list data by referring to another
information storing unit, by inquiring of the user,
and/or by performing a calculating process based on
5 predetermined conditions and merging said specific
conditions; and

searching information which satisfies said merged
conditions and presenting said information to the user.

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